

On page 2, line 11, delete "Serial No. _____, filed October _____ 1992" and insert:

--Serial No. 07/964,792, filed October 22, 1992--.

On page 2, line 15, delete "Serial No. _____, filed October _____ 1992" and insert:

--Serial No. 07/964,738, filed October 22, 1992--.

On page 2, line 18, delete "Serial No. _____, filed October _____ 1992" and insert:

--Serial No. 07/965,121, filed October 22, 1992--.

On page 26, line 2, delete "Sér. No. _____" and insert:

--Serial No. 07/964,738--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows.

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1. (Amended) ~~A packet data communications network comprising:~~
~~a first network segment having a plurality of stations, one of said stations sending a message packet onto said first network segment of a first format; said first format including a first header and a data field with network destination address in said communications network;~~
~~a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment to receive said message packet and having an output; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message~~

~~packet, said second header including a switching address translated from
said destination address, [and] said second header further including local
status information and a plurality of status fields to indicate said message
packet servicing;~~

~~a switching device having a plurality of ports, a first of said ports
being connected to said output of said first network transfer device; the
switching device receiving said message packet with said second header
and sending said message packet with said second header to a second port
as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status
information and the plurality of status fields;~~

~~a second network transfer device having an input connected to said
second of said ports of said switching device and having an output
connected to a second network segment, the second network transfer
device receiving said message packet via said switching device to forward
to said second network segment; the second network transfer device
removing said second header from said message packet.~~

~~10. (Amended) A method of operating a packet data communications
network, the network including a first network segment having a plurality of
stations and a second network segment having a plurality of stations, and
including a switching device interconnecting said first and second segments,
comprising the steps of:~~

~~sending from one of said stations of said first network segment a message packet of a first format onto said first network segment; said first format including a first header and a data field with a network destination address in said communications network;~~

~~receiving said message packet at a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, [and] said second header further including local status information and a plurality of status fields to indicate said message packet servicing;~~

~~receiving at said switching device said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a port of said switching device as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and the plurality of status fields;~~

~~receiving said message packet at said second network transfer device via said switching device and forwarding said message packet to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.~~

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 14 including transmitting on said first network segment by [the] a serial FDDI method, and [ports

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between] said port of said switching device [and said transfer devices are]
being a parallel [ports] port.

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Please add the following new claims:

19. A packet data communications network comprising:

 a first network segment having a plurality of stations, one of said stations sending a message packet onto said first network segment of a first format; said first format including a first header and a data field with network destination address in said communications network;

 a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment to receive said message packet and having an output; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, said second header including local status information and a service class field;

 a switching device having a plurality of ports, a first of said ports being connected to said output of said first network transfer device; the switching device receiving said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a second port as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and said service class field;

a second network transfer device having an input connected to said second of said ports of said switching device and having an output connected to a second network segment, the second network transfer device receiving said message packet via said switching device to forward to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.

20. A packet data communications network comprising:

a first network segment having a plurality of stations, one of said stations sending a message packet onto said first network segment of a first format; said first format including a first header and a data field with network destination address in said communications network;

a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment to receive said message packet and having an output; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, said second header including local status information and a protocol class field;

a switching device having a plurality of ports, a first of said ports being connected to said output of said first network transfer device; the switching device receiving said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a second port

as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and said protocol class field;

a second network transfer device having an input connected to said second of said ports of said switching device and having an output connected to a second network segment, the second network transfer device receiving said message packet via said switching device to forward to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.

21. A packet data communications network comprising:

a first network segment having a plurality of stations, one of said stations sending a message packet onto said first network segment of a first format; said first format including a first header and a data field with network destination address in said communications network;

a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment to receive said message packet and having an output; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, said second header including local status information and a local congestion status field;

a switching device having a plurality of ports, a first of said ports being connected to said output of said first network transfer device; the

switching device receiving said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a second port as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and said local congestion status field;

a second network transfer device having an input connected to said second of said ports of said switching device and having an output connected to a second network segment, the second network transfer device receiving said message packet via said switching device to forward to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.

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22. A method of operating a packet data communications network, the network including a first network segment having a plurality of stations and a second network segment having a plurality of stations, and including a switching device interconnecting said first and second segments, comprising the steps of:

 sending from one of said stations of said first network segment a message packet of a first format onto said first network segment; said first format including a first header and a data field with a network destination address in said communications network;

 receiving said message packet at a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment; the first network

transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, said second header including local status information and a service class field;

receiving at said switching device said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a port of said switching device as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and said service class field;

receiving said message packet at said second network transfer device via said switching device and forwarding said message packet to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.

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23. A method of operating a packet data communications network, the network including a first network segment having a plurality of stations and a second network segment having a plurality of stations, and including a switching device interconnecting said first and second segments, comprising the steps of:

sending from one of said stations of said first network segment a message packet of a first format onto said first network segment; said first format including a first header and a data field with a network destination address in said communications network;

receiving said message packet at a first network transfer device having an input connected to said first network segment; the first network transfer device applying a second header to said message packet, said second header including a switching address translated from said destination address, said second header including local status information and a protocol class field;

receiving at said switching device said message packet with said second header and sending said message packet with said second header to a port of said switching device as selected by said switching address, and in response to said local status information and said protocol class field;

receiving said message packet at said second network transfer device via said switching device and forwarding said message packet to said second network segment; the second network transfer device removing said second header from said message packet.

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24. A method of operating a packet data communications network, the network including a first network segment having a plurality of stations and a second network segment having a plurality of stations, and including a switching device interconnecting said first and second segments, comprising the steps of:

sending from one of said stations of said first network segment a message packet of a first format onto said first network segment; said first